GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4775
ANSWERED ON:24.08.2001
ILLEGAL TRADE OF HEROIN
M. JAGANNATH

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether illegal trade of heroin through Southern Coromandal Coast of India meant for Srilanka, is on the rise; and

(b) if so, the stricter vigil proposed on the entire coast to check such illegal trade?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN)

(a) Drug smuggling is a clandestine activity. The seizure of Heroin in Tamil Nadu in recent years which was destined for Sri Lanka has shown an increasing trend.

(b) Instructions to all drug enforcement agencies to maintain utmost vigil and step up enforcement efforts, vesting of powers in Coast Guards under the Customs Act, notifying certain precursor chemical viz. Acetic Anhydride etc. as `Controlled Substances` under the NDPS Act, quarterly coordination meetings by NCB, Indo-Sri Lanka bilateral talks on anti-smuggling and other related matters are some of the steps taken by the Government to check smuggling around the coastal areas of India.